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REVIEW

Aristotle on the Art of Poetry. An Amplified Version with Supplementary Illustrations for Students of English. By Lane Cooper, Assistant Professor of English in Cornell University. Boston: Ginn and Company (1913). Pp. xiii + 101. 80 cents¹.

Prof. Lane Cooper has done a useful piece of work in his "amplified version" of Aristotle's Poetics. The book is intended primarily for students of English, but the many illustrations taken from English authors are likely to be valuable to students of the Classics as well, for they direct attention in an interesting way to the fundamental and universal character of the Greek treatise. Thorough students of English ought to know the Poetics at first hand, but if our present tendencies to work along lines of least resistance preclude this, they will hardly find a better guide than Professor Cooper has furnished them. His method is to give a free translation, and then to add, unseparated from the general text, but in brackets, a miscellaneous commentary. Occasionally a little of what might well be commentary gets into the text, as when in the first chapter the essential quality or function of each species of poetic art is said to be "equivalent to the proper and characteristic effect of each on the trained sensibilities of the judicious"—good Aristotelian doctrine, no doubt, but foreign to the Greek of this passage. In the main, however, the author has made his translation follow the original without undue explanatory interpolation, and has constructed his commentary with good sense and tact. He has made careful use of Bywater's almost final edition of the Poetics, and of the work of other scholars, not forgetting the old, but still valuable, commentary of Tyrwhitt. He has been careful, too, in the matter of cross-references—a very important thing for the student of this treatise. The comment on the puzzling contradiction in chapters xiii and xiv (very likely ultimately a textual difficulty) between the two views, that the best tragedies end unhappily, and that the horror of the tragic act is most effective when the act becomes imminent, but is not carried out, is fully recognized by Professor Cooper, and judiciously treated. Less judicious is his statement (p. 35) that the peripety, or reversal, in the *Œdipus Rex*, "as we know the play", is not brought about by the messenger, as Aristotle says it is. Bywater's words are more to the point: "It is, as

¹ I venture to suggest another interpretation. When the stranger has finished the catalogue of his own merits, Horace rejoins, 'Heavens! You're so clever, you're in danger of death'. That such an idea is not un-Roman may be seen by a glance at Horace, *Sermones* 2.7. 2.4, where Davus describes himself as Davus, amicum mancipium domino et frugi, quod sit satis, hoc est, ut vitale putes. See the editors there.

² When I requested Professor Wheeler to review this book, I found that he had already noticed the work for *The Nation*, on September 18 last. With his consent, and by the courtesy of Dr. Paul Elmer More, the review is here reprinted.

C. K.

Aristotle says, the natural result of the arrival of the Messenger and his disclosure in the preceding scene". The implication that Aristotle may have known a somewhat differently constructed play is surely unnecessary. In the matter of typography, what advantage is there in printing Greek words and phrases in English italics? To one who knows Greek letters the practice seems a barbarism; and what profit is it to the student of English, when he does not know them, if he is simply enabled to mispronounce a lot of syllables he does not understand? If, however, one does print in this way, the inconsistent use of initial "K" and "C" (pages 9 and 72) needs revision. But these are small matters. The book is excellent and to be cordially recommended.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

J. R. WHEELER.

THE NEW YORK LATIN CLUB: PROGRAMME FOR 1913-1914

The programme for the fourteenth year of The New York Latin Club is marked by an interesting departure, in that two of the addresses will be illustrated by lantern slides. For such addresses the Hotel Gregorian, at which the Club has met for several years, offer no facilities, and it was found impossible, in spite of earnest efforts, to make suitable arrangements with any other hotel. This year, therefore, the luncheons will be held at Columbia University, the luncheons in University Hall 327, the illustrated addresses in Havermeyer Hall 309.

The programme is as follows:

November 15: Professor J. R. S. Sterrett, of Cornell University, will speak on *The Troglodytic Dwellings in Cappadocia*.

February 7: Professor Walton Brooks McDaniel, of the University of Pennsylvania, will speak on *Pliny and Lake Como*.

May 23: Professor Duane Reed Stuart, of Princeton University, will speak on *Ancient and Modern Attempts to Rehabilitate Personalities*.

All persons who are in any way interested in the Classics are cordially invited to attend the luncheons. A determined effort will be made to start the luncheons promptly at noon, that the major part of the afternoon may still be available after adjournment.

Persons interested may communicate with Dr. W. F. Tibbetts, Treasurer of The New York Latin Club, at Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn, making remittance in accordance with the following table of joint rates in the interests of The New York Latin Club and The Classical Association of the Atlantic States:

(1) For three luncheons and membership in The New York Latin Club, \$2.75.

(2) For the matters covered in 1, and membership in The Classical Association of the Atlantic States, which carries with it *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY*, \$4.25.

(3) For the matters covered in 2, and subscription to The Classical Journal, \$5.25.

(4) For the matters covered in 3, and subscription to Classical Philology, \$6.92.

Those who have already paid dues to The Classical Association of the Atlantic States may deduct \$2.00 from the figures named in 2, 3, 4, and 50 cents from the figure named in 1.